Farm subsidies regime at WTO talks

496. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner farm subsidies in India compare with such subsidies extended to their counterpart farmers and farm labours in USA, UK, Germany, Japan, France and China;

(b) whether these countries vehemently opposed India's farm subsidy regime in the recent WTO talks in Doha; and

(c) what was India's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) Total farm subsidies (including domestic support and export subsidies as notified to the WTO) provided by USA, EC (including U.K., Germany and France), Japan and China in 1998 were as under:

(in US $ Million)

Country	Domestic Support	Export Subsidies	Total
USA	64957.88	147	65104.88
EC	100698	5843	106541
Japan	30414	Nil	30414
China	31834.76	Nil	31834.76
India	9664.05	3.92	9667.97

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

FDI in retail sector

497. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the issue of allowing Foreign Direct Investment in retail sector has been left to a Group of Ministers (GoM);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon;

(c) whether it is also a fact that FDI is allowed to certain extent at present in retail sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise;

(c) and (d) As per extant policy, FDI is not permitted in retail trading.

Permission for take-over of distilleries by foreign companies

498. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are the sole authority in regard to setting up/taking over of distilleries for production of IMFL by foreign based copanies in India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some State Governments particularly Karnataka and Maharashtra have granted permission to foreign based companies for taking over distilleries producing IMFL without the Central Government's approval; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) FDI in distillation and brewing of potable alcohol require prior approval of Central Government;

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Impact of reforms on agri-trade

499. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the new-item captioned "concerns over directions of post reforms agri-trade" which appeared in the Economic Times dated 28th December, 2001;